## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith are several English-language and/or non-English-language documents. Applicants respectfully request that these documents be listed as references cited on the issued patent.

If the present application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of United States patents and United States published patent applications do not have to be provided to the Patent Office. This requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) has been waived by the United States Patent and Trademark Office pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice on August 5, 2003 (1276 OG 55). Applicants will provide copies of such patents upon request.

Applicants filed this Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") within three months of the filing date of a national application, within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, before the mailing date of a first

PATENT

Office action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of request for continued examination under § 1.114. As a result, no fee should be required to file this IDS. However, if the Patent Office determines that a fee is required for to file this IDS, please charge any such fees, or credit overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4550.

The filing of this IDS shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art or otherwise material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

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